



Coconino County Sheriff's Office

Bill Pribil, Sheriff

MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
Date: January 22, 2010**

Contact: Gerry Blair (928) 226-5089

Northern Arizona Snow Play Options Limited for this Weekend

Flagstaff, AZ- Popular Northern Arizona snow play areas including Wing Mountain and other snow play sites in and around Flagstaff and Coconino County will have limited access due to existing heavy snow accumulations impacting safe travel to and from Flagstaff. Other issues include safe and legal parking at snow play areas, as well as diminished resources for public safety. Public safety agencies are overwhelmed dealing with the aftermath of the severe winter storm.

Heavy snow accumulations will impact access from major interstates and highways to designated snow play areas. Although highways may be open, please use caution as roads will be snow packed and icy.

Parking at designated snow play areas will also be limited because of the amount of snowfall and large accumulations of snow on highway shoulders. Parking on or along the highway is prohibited.

Public safety agencies are still dealing with issues related to the snow emergency and severe winter conditions which limits their ability to respond to non-emergency/snow play calls, related traffic congestion and parking issues.

In addition, the Coconino National Forest has issued a temporary Forest Order closing the Kachina Peaks Wilderness area to any and all entry which means that any backcountry skiing, snowboarding, or snow shoeing from Arizona Snowbowl is prohibited until further notice, and violators are subject to criminal penalty.

For more information about local snow play areas, accessibility and capacity, please contact the Flagstaff Visitor Center at 1-877-878-9377 or 928-774-9541.

###